GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
US-RUSSIA AGREEMENT FOR ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the treaty signed between US and Russia to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and mass weapons of destruction;

(b) if so, the terms of the treaty and the Government assessment about its effectiveness to prevent proliferation and elimination of the risk to global peace and security?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

a) Yes, Sir. President Putin and President Bush concluded the Strategic Offensive Reductions (SOR) Treaty and the Declaration on New Strategic Relations in Moscow on 24 May 2002.

b) Under the Treaty, Russia and the US have agreed to reduce and limit their strategic nuclear warheads to aggregate numbers not exceeding 1700-2200 for either side by 31 December 2012. India has assessed these deep cuts in nuclear weapons` stockpiles as a major step in the direction of nuclear disarmament and as a signal contribution to the elimination of nuclear weapons and genuine non-proliferation. India expects that the establishment of a new strategic relationship between Russia and the United States would pave the way for the creation of enduring structures of cooperative international security and global strategic stability.